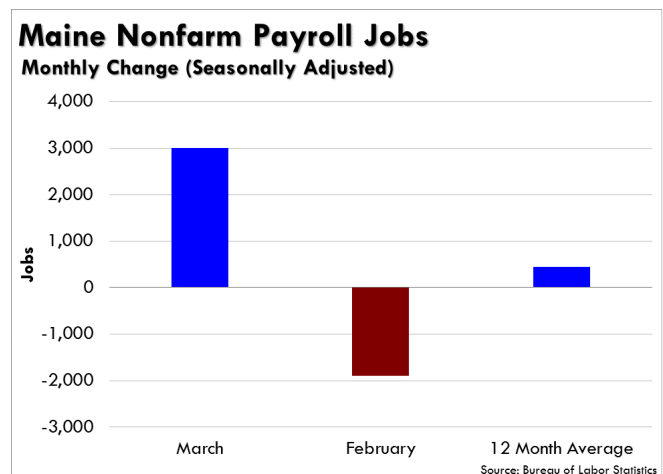
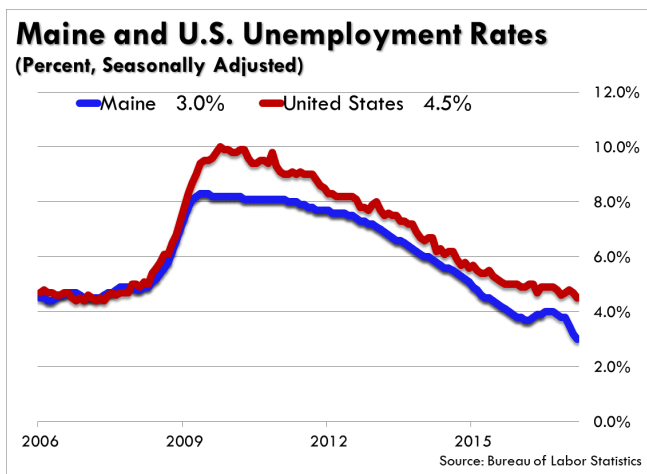


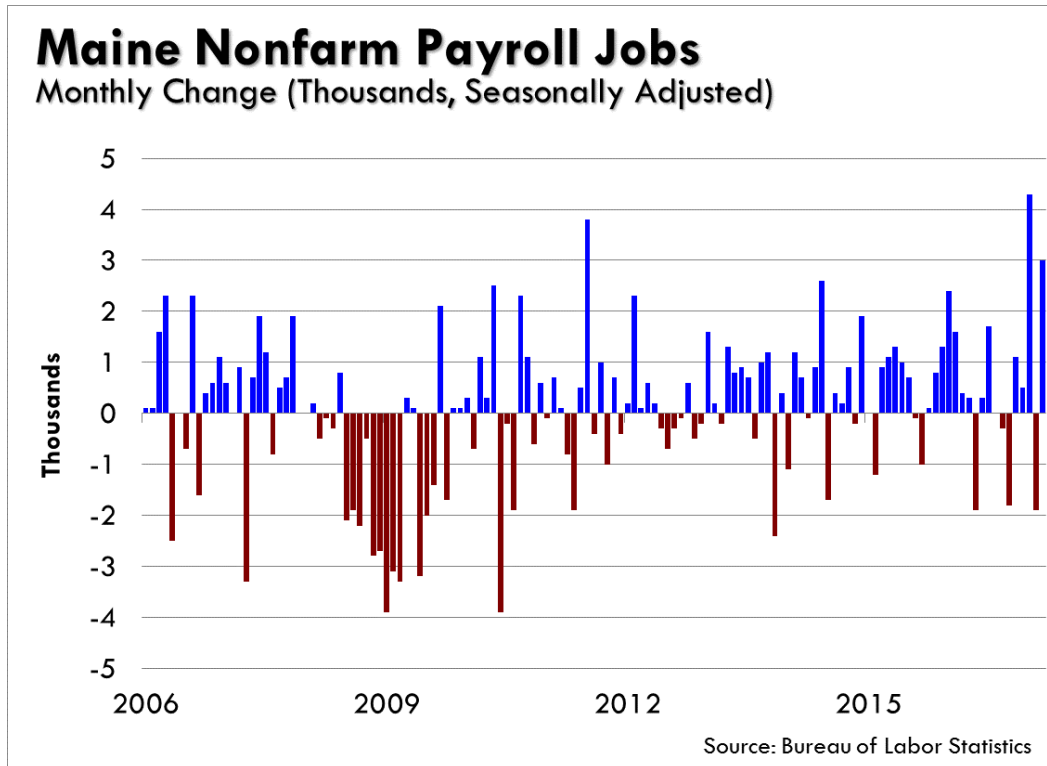


April 23, 2017

Summary

- **Maine added 3,000 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 3 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Maine added 5,300 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage point from 3.7 percent.
- **In March, Maine's private sector added 3,000 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 5,300 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Mainers fell by 1,383 in March**, and over the past year 19,721 Mainers found jobs.
- Maine's **labor force participation rate increased to 63.8 percent** from 63.6 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 1.1 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





Maine Payroll Employment

Maine added 3,000 jobs, or 0.48 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Maine lost 1,900 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Maine increased by 5,300, or 0.86 percent. Maine nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

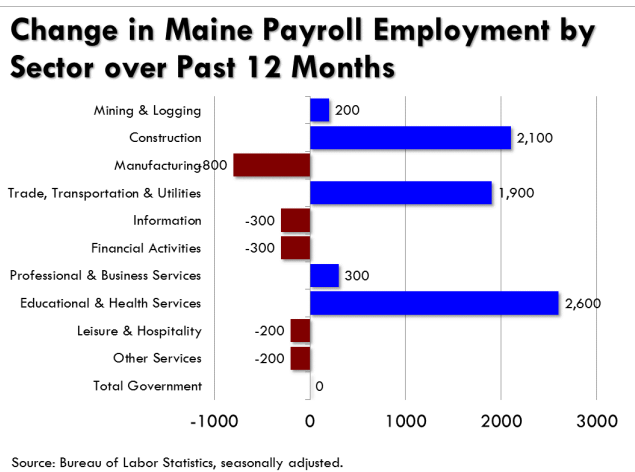
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Maine ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Maine's private-sector added 3,000 jobs, or 0.58 percent. The private-sector in Maine lost 2,300 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Maine increased by 5,300, or 1.02 percent. Maine private-sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Maine ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Educational & Health Services (+1,500) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+1,000). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Manufacturing (-300) and Financial Activities (-100).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+2,600) and Construction (+2,100). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Manufacturing (-800) and Financial Activities (-300).



Maine Labor Force Statistics

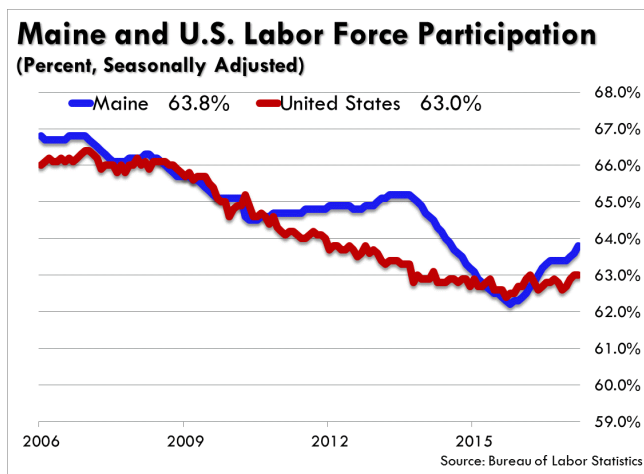
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Maine rose to 63.8 percent in March from 63.6 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 24 have a higher labor force participation rate than Maine. The labor force participation rate in Maine is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Maine was 66.4 percent in April 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Maine occurred in March 1991 when the labor force participation rate hit 68.9 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 62.2 percent in October 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in March 1978 when the labor force participation rate hit 59.7 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Maine civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 62.0 percent in March from 61.6 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 19 have higher employment-to-



population ratios than Maine. The employment-to-population ratio in Maine is 1.7 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Maine was 63.4 percent in April 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Maine occurred in April 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.4 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 59.3 percent in September 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in December 1977 when the employment-to-population ratio was 55.5 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

